

FISCAL NOTE

HB 3359 - SB 3327

March 2, 1998

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Secretary of State to provide first class mail forwarding services and to serve as agent for service of process for all victims of domestic violence in Tennessee who request and qualify as *program participants*. The bill creates a way to protect the addresses and locations of victims of domestic violence to protect them from assailants or potential assailants. The bill enables state and local agencies to respond to requests for public records without disclosing the location of victims; enables the agencies to cooperate with the Secretary of State in protecting the confidentiality of the address of the victims; and allows the agencies to use the substitute address permitted by this bill as a substitute mailing address. The bill also requires the Secretary of State to process program participant applications and renewals and to cancel program participation under certain circumstances.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$270,828 Recurring
\$ 45,192 One-Time**

Personnel Costs (salary and benefits):

Filing Supervisor	\$45,086
Filing Officers	35,102
Filing Specialists (2)	62,080
Clerk II (2)	50,800
Postage	27,600
Rent	25,200
Supplies	7,000
Communication	11,000
System Development Services	<u>6,960</u>

Subtotal Recurring Costs	\$270,828
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System Development Services	<u>\$45,192</u>
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Subtotal One-Time Costs	<u>45,192</u>
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Total	<u>\$316,020</u>
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Estimate assumes an average of 1,000 active participants receiving an average of 2.2 pieces of forwardable mail each day. The bill requires the remailing of all first class documents (including certified mail) to a program participant's confidential address. Service of process must be mailed by certified mail, return receipt.

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Assumes one officer position and two specialist positions to handle the processing of program applications and renewals and processing daily mail. Two clerical positions to assist with sorting, distribution and preparation of outgoing mail. One supervisor responsible for overall program operations. Assumes an automated system is required for database and forwarding address information and label printing.

For information purposes, according to the domestic violence statistics obtained from the Administrative Office of the Courts, there were over 37,284 reported victims of domestic violence between July 1, 1996 and June 30, 1997.

In addition, this bill is similar to the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) enacted in 1990 in the State of Washington. Washington appears to have approximately the same size population and incidence of reported domestic violence as Tennessee. In 1997, the ACP in Washington had an average of 939 active participants receiving an average of 2.2 pieces of forwardable mail each day, with an approximate overall postage cost of \$27,600 per year. The 1997 operating budget for the ACP was \$196,558.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director